

LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting Held
January 15, 2025

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission ("LRWRC") met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at the Hub Conference Room and via livestream.

Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission

Jonathan Semans, Chair
Daryl Brown, Vice Chair
Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary
Schawnee Hightower, Commissioner
Ganelle McBryde, Commissioner
Chris Marsh, Commissioner
Christina Clark, Commissioner
Director Lance Hines, Ex Officio Member

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority Personnel

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer
Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer
Ryan Benefield, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
Walter Collins, P.E., Director of Operations
Rebecca Burkman, Director of Environmental Affairs
Harold Hounwanou, P.E., Director of Collection System Maintenance
Tonya Wallace, Director of Facility Asset Management
Les Price, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Doug Roe, Director of Accounting & Finance
Kenetta Ridgell, Director of Communications and Community Engagement
Angela Brooks, Director of Human Resources

Attendees included: Commissioner Hightower, Clark, and Semans appeared in person. Commissioners Brown and Marsh appeared via livestream. Commissioner McBryde, O'Guinn, and Director Hines were absent. Senior Staff Members: Jean Block, Michael Rhoda, Ryan Benefield, Walter Collins, Harold Hounwanou, Rebecca Burkman, Doug Roe, Angela Brooks, Les Price, Kenetta Ridgell, and Tonya Wallace.

Chair Semans brought the meeting to order and called for Mr. Hounwanou to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alexandria Evans, Communication Specialist, presented the Communications Department Spotlight. She gave a brief overview of the employees in the department and the wide variety of projects they accomplish through communications and public outreach.

Chair Semans then asked if there were any public comments, and there were none.

Next, Chair Semans asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2024, meeting. Being that there were no revisions, Chair Semans asked if there were any objections to approving minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Chair Semans requested a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Harold Hounwanou, Director of Collection System Maintenance, presented a Recommendation of Award for Industrial Force Main Fittings & Valves Replacement. He gave a brief overview of the need for the replacement and an overview on the project.

Commissioner Hightower asked for clarification on the project budget. Ryan Benefield, Chief Operating Officer, noted this project was budgeted with our recent Rapid Assessment evaluation and this would be 23% of that budget and this was one of the more expensive items than the other 180 projects.

Staff requested that the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization for the pipe fittings and valves in the amount of \$263,477.57 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter a contract with Core & Main.

Chair Semans requested a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Hounwanou then presented a Purchase Authorization for 2025 Vehicles & Equipment. Mr. Hounwanou gave a brief overview of the type of vehicles and equipment that was needed by the utility.

Commissioner Hightower asked how the inhouse pipe bursting program was improving efficiency and how the new machine would also help. Mr. Hounwanou stated the inhouse pipe bursting program was successful and the new machine would greatly improve flexibility and efficiency.

Mr. Hounwanou then noted that he would have multiple requests for Purchase Authorizations from this one presentation.

First, Staff requested the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization for a combination cleaning truck in the amount of \$535,000 and to authorize the CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with Improved Construction Methods (ICM)

Second, Staff requested the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization of a CCTV truck in the amount of \$425,000 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with Vacuum Truck Sales.

Third, Staff requested the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization for three (03) F-550 Service Trucks in the combined amount of \$356,643 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with Chastang Enterprises, dba Chastang Ford of Houston, Texas.

Fourth, Staff requested the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization of a new 50-ton pipe burst machine in the amount of \$145,000 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with Hammerhead Trenchless.

Finally, Staff requested the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization of a Hydro Jetter Trailer in the amount of \$104,000 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with Vacuum Truck Sales.

Chair Seamans requested a motion to approve all five Purchase Authorization requests. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Tonya Wallace, Director of Facility Asset Management, presented a Purchase Authorization for the Maumelle & Arch Street Pump Station Wet Well Cleaning. She gave a brief overview of the project and the need for the wet well cleaning.

Staff requested the Commission approve a Purchase Authorization for Arch Street and Maumelle Pump Station Wet Well Cleaning in the amount of \$436,011.60 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with W&T Contracting Corporation of Memphis, Tennessee.

Chair Seamans requested a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Roe presented a summary of the December Financial Report. He noted this is a preliminary report due to it being early in the month. He explained in December that there was total revenue of \$5.5 million more than budget by \$403k. Operating expenses of \$2.9 million under budget by \$39k with Salaries under budget by \$18k (-1.5%), Supplies are over budget by \$30k (13.5%), and that Contract Services under budget by \$168k (-32.1%).

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer, then presented the results of the Economic Impact Study. She noted the recently completed economic impact analysis that determined the utility had a substantial economic impact of nearly \$2.6 billion in Central Arkansas from 2014 through 2023. The findings came from the study conducted by Boyette Strategic Advisors, an economic development consulting firm in Little Rock who has conducted numerous studies for local entities. She stated the study also shows our organization's social and cultural impact in Little Rock and that LRWRA employees volunteered time and provided support to 94 charitable organizations, schools, and community events.

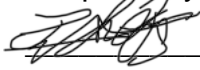
Ms. Block then delivered the monthly highlights which included: Presentation of the Economic Impact Study to Rotary Club 99 and the Little Rock Board of Directors, LRWRA's response to the inclement weather event, hiring of the new Chief Legal Officer – Deanna Ray, and monitoring legislation from the regular session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

Chair Semans called for any old business, and there was none.

Chair Semans called for any new business, and there was none.

Chair Semans stated the next LRWRC meeting would be February 19, 2025. He then asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary